Outlook

Re: INFO: Legal Complaint

From Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Date Mon 2/16/2026 3:01 PM
To Joy Mischley <jmischley@email.wcu.edu>; Amanda Allen <amandaallen@jacksonnc.org>

Yes, thank you Amanda! Glad to partner with you.
Sincerely,
Kelly

From: Joy Mischley <jmischley@email.wcu.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 2:52 PM
To: Amanda Allen <amandaallen@jacksonnc.org>; Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: Re: INFO: Legal Complaint

Thank you, Amanda.

My best,
Joy

Western Carolina University

VOTING is Social Work

WNC Mountain Life

Joy Mischley, MSW, LCSW
Director
Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning
Western Carolina University | 273 Belk
1 University Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723
o: (828) 227.2643 | jmischley@wcu.edu
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Amanda Allen <amandaallen@jacksonnc.org>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:30 AM
To: Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>; Joy Mischley <jmischley@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: Re: INFO: Legal Complaint

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Good morning, Kelly & Joy.

I received a voluntary dismissal without prejudice from the legal team representing the NC College Dems (attached). From my understanding there is nothing we need to do at this time, but the plaintiffs have a year to potentially reopen the case with reorganized arguments.

I do believe a number of members of my Board are still interested in engaging with WCU for future voting sites and my understanding is there is momentum behind use of the HHS site. I hope to have them begin discussions for the general early voting plan as soon as we're through with the primary. I'll keep you posted.

On Tue, Feb 10, 2026 at 8:11 AM Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu> wrote:

> Thank you, Amanda! Just let us know when you're ready to start working on plans for the general. Thank you for all you do!
>
> Sincerely,
> Kelly
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Amanda Allen <amandaallen@jacksonnc.org>
> **Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 5:54 PM
> **To:** Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
> **Subject:** Re: INFO: Legal Complaint
>
> **WARNING:** This email originated from a non-WCU email account. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are confident the content is safe.
>
> Kelly - Just following up on the weekend's legal news to keep you in the loop.
>
> You may have already heard tell of this but this weekend, the Court ruled in favor of all Defendants and denied Plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order or Preliminary Injunction. The Court's Order is attached. This order does not lead us to open an EV site serving WCU in this primary; we adhere to the plan as determined by the SBE on 1/13 (four sites). This is only for the injunction piece and I do not know how this will ultimately end - if this order will be appealed, the case will continue, or if it's dropped - and what that may mean for future voting opportunities at WCU.
>
> I do hope to have our Board begin plans for November 2026 Early Voting as soon as possible following the primary. EV plans are due to the state in July, so we should be reaching out in the spring to discern plans for fall.
>
> Please reach out any time and I will stay in touch as this progresses.
>
> On Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 1:14 PM Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu> wrote:

Thank you for sharing this, Amanda. Always happy to talk further as you discuss with your counsel and may need further information from WCU. My cell number is [redacted] — that is usually the best way to reach me.

Sincerely,
Kelly

From: Amanda Allen <amandaallen@jacksonnc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:04 PM
To: Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: INFO: Legal Complaint

You don't often get email from amandaallen@jacksonnc.org. Learn why this is important

WARNING: This email originated from a non-WCU email account. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are confident the content is safe.

Good morning, Kelly. Hope you're well.

A complaint (attached) has been filed in US District Court regarding the closure of the WCU early voting site, in addition to the closure of Guilford County college-based ev sites. This lawsuit is filed on behalf of the College Democrats of NC against the NC SBE (& Exec. Director Sam Hayes and the Board members in their capacities on the Board), the Guilford Co. BOE (& Board members in their capacities on the Board), and the Jackson Co. BOE. (& Board members in their capacities on the Board). WCU is not named as a defendant in the case. This has not been formally served yet, but we anticipate that to happen soon.

Our County Attorney supported the sharing of this complaint with you as WCU Counsel for your awareness of a likely quickly developing situation. This may be something I need to discuss with you later - following formal serving and counsel advising - as it relates to the case and for any contingency arrangements that may need to be considered for early voting.

Please treat this delicately as privileged information until the situation develops further. Our County Attorney is in the process of retaining a legal team and examining this closer; I will reach out if further coordination is needed. Please be mindful of the sensitive nature of this situation.

As always, feel free to give me a call anytime.

Best,

JACKSON COUNTY
Board of Elections

Amanda Pressley Allen
(she/her/hers)
Director of Elections
(p) 828.586.7531 (f) 828.586.1951

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